

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 22-28 are currently pending in the present patent application. In a final Office Action mailed 26 October 2005, the Examiner maintained his rejection of claims 1-6 and 22-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA) disclosed in the present application. Also maintained were the rejections of claims 27 and 28 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the AAPA.

Claim 1 recites, in part, a DMOS device including a plurality of contacts of conductive material. The contacts extend in the contact openings as far as the first conductive region, second conductive region, and the body-contact region. Each body-contact region has a boundary that is substantially coincident with a boundary of a corresponding contact.

Claim 1 was amended in the prior amendment filed to recite this structure of the body-contact regions relative the contacts. In the final Office Action, the Examiner merely makes a conclusory statement that the "AAPA further teaches each body-contact region has a boundary (vertical side of contact hole (see [F]ig 12)) that is substantially coincident with a boundary of a corresponding contact." The explanation in the prior amendment clearly evidences that this is not the case.

Figure 12 is a cross-sectional view showing the body-contact mask 30 that is formed to form the body-contact regions 31. This figure does not even show a region for the contact that is to be coupled to the illustrated body-contact region. Given this fact, the undersigned is at a loss to understand how Figure 12 discloses the recited body-contact region having a boundary that is substantially coincident with a boundary of a corresponding contact when the contact or boundary thereof is not even shown in Figure 12. No such contact mask 36 is even present in Figure 12 and thus Figure 12 quite simply in now way shows the boundaries of the body-contact region 31 and a corresponding contact being coincident.

As explicitly explained last time, Figure 14 is a top view including the contact mask 36 that is, as its name implies, used for forming the contacts. As shown in the figure, the boundary of the body-contact region 31, which is the larger rectangle in the middle of the figure, is not coincident with the boundary of the corresponding contact, which corresponds to the square 37c in the middle of the rectangle. This view clearly shows the boundaries of these two components are not coincident. The cross-sectional view of Figure 15 shows this as well, namely with the vertical walls of

the contact 38 not being aligned or coincident with the body-contact region 31. This is in contrast to embodiments of the present invention, such as shown in Figure 26, which depicts the body-contact region 61 having a boundary that is substantially coincident with the boundary of the contact 38. The difference between Figure 26 and Figure 12 is blatantly apparent, and the amended language of claim 1 covers the structure of the embodiment of Figure 26. The combination of elements recited in claim 1 is therefore allowable.

Claim 27 has been amended to recite, in part, a body-contact region in the first conductive region where the body-contact region has a boundary that is substantially coincident with a boundary of a corresponding contact. This amendment includes the same language utilized in claim 1 to more clearly recite the interrelationship between the body-contact region and corresponding contact. This amendment in no way necessitates a new search by the Examiner since it is the same as that utilized in previously searched claim 1. Claim 27 is now allowable for reasons similar to those discussed above with reference to claim 1.

The above description indisputably illustrates the differences between the AAPA and the present invention and the undersigned believes the present language is a clear way of claiming that difference. If the Examiner takes issue with the present claim language, however, namely the boundaries of two components being "substantially coincident," then please contact the undersigned at (425) 455-5575 so that we may agree upon language that is acceptable to the Examiner.

All dependent claims are allowable for the same reasons as the associated independent claim and due to the additional limitations added by each of these claims.

The present patent application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. If a need for any fee in addition to that paid with this response is found, for any reason or at any point during the prosecution of this application, kindly consider this a petition therefore and charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account 07-1897.

Dated this 26th day of January, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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